

# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. I

July, 1896

No. 3

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## THE BOSTON BOOK CO.

CHARLES C. SOULE, President.

15½ Beacon Street,

BOSTON, MASS.

# Public Libraries

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## A. L. A. Library Primer

(Under Revision)

### Chapter 17—Lists, Bulletins, Printed catalog

Give the public access to the card catalog if possible. If a dictionary catalog is made (See chapter—) it will prove to be most helpful to the serious students. For the average reader, the person who wishes to get a recent book, the latest novel, etc., prepare lists of additions from month to month, post them up in some convenient place in the library, and put them in a binder to be left on desk or table in the delivery room.

Print lists of additions, if possible, in the local papers; also, publish reference lists having to do with current events and matters of popular interest. Oftentimes the newspapers will furnish, for a small sum, extra copies of the lists which they have printed. If the means warrant the expenditure, a very useful thing for the library is a periodical bulletin, appearing once a month, or even oftener, containing information about the library, notes on recent additions, suggestions as to the use of books, lists on special subjects, and lists of books lately added. Such a bulletin can often be maintained without cost to the library by having it published by some one who will pay its expenses by means of advertisements. The very best way of bringing new books to the attention of readers is to print a list of additions, with call-numbers, as condensed as possible, and with no other matter, for free distribution in the library.

Don't make the mistake of spending much money, at the library's beginning, for a printed catalog. A printed catalog is not a necessity. It is useful, particularly for home use, to tell whether the library owns certain books, and when the proper time comes should be published. Lists, bulletins, notes in newspapers, access to shelves, and, more than all, obliging attendants, may put off printing a catalog until the means of the library will justify it.

### Chapter 18—Charging system, The public

On the inside of the front cover of every book in the library paste a manilla pocket. (See also chapter—). On this manilla pocket, at the top, write the call-number of the book. Below this print information for borrowers. In this pocket place a book-card of heavy ledger paper, or light cardboard. On this book-card, at the top, write the call-number of the book in the pocket of which it is placed, and at bottom of reverse side author, short title, and accession number.

To every borrower the library will issue a borrower's card. This card is made of heavy, colored tag-board, and will contain borrower's name and address, his number in the series of borrowers' numbers, and important rules about lending books. The rest leave blank for dates.

The librarian, before delivering a book to a borrower, takes from the pocket the book-card, writes on it the number found at the top of the borrower's card, and after it, with a dater, stamps the day

of the month. At the same time he stamps the same date on the borrower's card.

The borrower's card he places in the book pocket, the book-card he retains as a record of the loan, and the borrower takes the book away. The book-card, with all others representing the books issued on the same day, he places in a tray behind a card bearing the date of the day of issue. All the book-cards representing books issued on a certain day are arranged, first in the numerical, then in the alphabetical order of their call-numbers.

Under this system the borrower can tell, by looking at his card, on what date the book he has was taken from the library, and by looking at the rules on pocket and card can tell on what day he should return it. If he wishes to renew it without taking it back to the library, he can do so by a letter stating that he took on a certain day a book bearing a certain number, and wishes it renewed.

The librarian can tell, from the book-cards, what books are in circulation, and how many of each class were lent on a certain day.

The borrower's number, written on the book-card of any given book in circulation, will give, through the register of borrowers, the name and address of the person having that book. Overdue books are automatically indicated, their cards remaining in the tray, behind the card indicating the date they were lent, after the day for their return has passed.

When a borrower returns a book the librarian can learn, from the date on the pocket, whether or no a fine should be paid on it; if not, he can, if in haste, immediately take out the borrower's card from the book pocket, stamp the date of its return at the right of the date on which it was lent, thus canceling the charge against the borrower, and lay the book aside and look up its book-card later.

Double and special borrowers' cards are not needed under this system. On the book-cards belonging to the second volume, and all other volumes after the

first, which any borrower may take, the librarian writes the borrower's number preceded by any letter or sign which will serve to indicate that these books are charged, not on the borrower's card, but to the borrower direct, on the strength of a general permission to him to take more than one book.

In most places, certainly in all small towns, a sufficient safeguard against the loss of books is found in the signature of the borrower himself. No guarantee need be called for. To ask for a guarantor for a reputable resident is simply to discommode two people instead of one. The application which the borrower signs should be brief and plain. Name, residence, place of business, and any necessary references, should be written in by the librarian, on one side; the signature to an agreement to obey the library rules can be written by the applicant on the other. All borrowers' agreements should be filed in alphabetical order. They should receive borrowers' numbers in the order of their issue and the date. The borrowers' cards should state that they expire in a definite number of years from the date of issue, and the date of issue should be stamped on them. An index of borrower's agreements should be kept by their numbers. This need contain only the borrower's number, his name and, when necessary, his address.

If the public is not admitted to the shelves, it will be necessary to supply catalogs for public use as well as slips on which lists of books wanted can be made out; but the fullest possible catalogs and the finest appointments in the delivery room cannot take the place of direct contact between librarian or assistants and the public. Wherever possible, the person to whom the borrower applies for a book should himself go to the shelves for it.

The stranger in the library should be made welcome. Encourage the timid, volunteer to them directions and suggestions, and instruct them in the library's methods. Conversation at the counter having to do with wants of borrowers should be encouraged rather



than discouraged. No mechanical devices can take the place of face to face question and answer.

#### Chapter 19—Young people and the schools

If possible give the young people a reading room of their own, and a room in which are their own particular books. These special privileges will not bar them from the general use of the library. Make no age limit in issuing borrowers' cards. A child old enough to know the use of books is old enough to borrow them, and to begin that branch of its education which a library only can give. The fact that a child is a regular attendant at school is in itself almost sufficient guarantee for giving him a borrower's card. Certainly this fact, in addition to the signature of parent, guardian or adult friend, even if the signer does not come to the library, will be guarantee enough.

Teachers should be asked to help in persuading children to make the acquaintance of the library, and then to make good use of it. To get this help from teachers is not easy. They are generally fully occupied with keeping their pupils up to the required scholarship mark. They have no time to look after outside matters. Very commonly they have not themselves a sufficient acquaintance with books to be interested in the subject of what books can do for young people. Not many teachers are readers in any proper sense of the word. One of the functions of the public library is manifestly to raise the standard of scholarship among teachers themselves. Until this is done not much can be accomplished through teachers in encouraging and directing the reading of their pupils.

A visit to teachers in their schoolrooms by librarian or assistant will often be found helpful. Lists of books adapted to schoolroom use, both for the teacher and for pupils, are good, but are very little used when offered. Brief statements of what the library can do and would like to do in the way of helping on the educational work of the community will be read by the oc-

casional teacher only. Teachers can sometimes be interested in a library through the interest in it of the children themselves. The work of getting young people to come to the library and enjoy its books should go hand in hand with the work of persuading teachers to interest children in the library. It is not enough to advertise the library's advantages in the papers, or to send to teachers a printed statement that they are invited and urged to use the institution, nor is it enough to visit them and say that the books in the library are at their service. These facts must be demonstrated by actual practice on every possible opportunity. A teacher who goes to a library and finds its privileges much hedged about with rules and regulations will perhaps use it occasionally, certainly not often. Appropriate books should be put directly into their hands, the educational work of this, that, and the other teacher should be noted, and their attention called to the new books which touch their particular fields.

Teachers' cards can be provided which will give to holders special privileges. It is a question, however, if such a system is necessary or worth while. Under the charging system already described, any teacher can be permitted to take away as many books as she wishes, and a record of them can be easily and quickly made. To give "teachers' cards," with accompanying privileges, is to limit to some extent the rights of all others. Teachers may very often properly receive special attention. In a measure they are part of the library's staff of educational workers. But these special attentions or favors should be offered without proclaiming the fact to the rest of the community. Many cannot see why a teacher should receive favors not granted to all.

Take special pains to show children the use of indexes, and indeed of all sorts of reference books; they will soon be familiar with them and handle them like lifelong students. Gain the interest of teachers in this sort of work, and

urge them to bring their classes and make a study of your reference books.

#### Chapter 20—Miscellaneous, Reports, etc.

A museum in connection with the library, either historical or scientific, or an art gallery, may be made a source of attraction, and may prove to be of some educational value. The collecting of antiquities, or natural history specimens, or rare bindings, or ancient books or manuscripts, is something which a public library can in general wisely leave to societies organized for such purposes. If these societies bring their collections into such relations with the library as to add to its attractiveness, and if the library can make more interesting and instructing the collections, well and good. But a museum or a gallery which is but a side-show to a library simply occupies valuable space.

A library can often very happily advertise itself, and encourage the use of its books, by establishing a series of lectures. Entertainments, somewhat of the nature of receptions, or exhibits of the library's treasures in the library itself, will sometimes add to the institution's popularity, and will always afford a good excuse for sending to leading people in the community a note reminding them of the library's existence and perhaps of its needs.

In getting notices of the library's work in the newspapers, or in securing mention of it from the lecture platform, or in clubs and literary, artistic, and musical societies, it is better to refrain from figures and to deal chiefly in general statements about what the library aims to do and what it has done.

As far as the welfare of the library is concerned, the money spent in publishing an elaborate annual report can often be better invested in a few attractive books, or better still, in a few attractively printed statements of progress and of needs, distributed through the community on special occasions. If there must be an annual report for the general public—which will not read it—it should be brief and interesting, without many figures and without many

complaints. The report compiled for the board of trustees, with fellow-librarians also in view, may very properly be quite extended and minute in its description of the library's work, and should by all means include historical and statistical data. No better outline of the proper form for library reports has ever been formulated than that which was accepted by the A. L. A. in 1877, and printed in Vol. I of the *Library Journal*.

It does not necessarily follow that a method or system which is adapted to one library is the best for all. There are no qualities which will supplement even a little technical knowledge so efficiently as good judgment and practical common sense.

The section of the primer printed this month closes the book proper. Appendices referred to in the text, including the list of reference books considered indispensable—list of periodicals recommended for small libraries, glossary of library terms, etc.—will appear in the next issue.

The illustrations to appear in their proper place in the bound volume will also be published in the July number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The compilation of the primer and the printing of 1000 copies for free distribution was authorized by the executive board of the A. L. A. at its meeting at Cleveland, Oct. 10, 1895, and the president and secretary were instructed to do the preliminary work. The idea was not, however, for the result to be the views of the committee, but a basis for revision to finally obtain a simple statement such as the association itself could give out in answer to inquiries constantly received by officers and members as to how to start and how to administer a small library.

Members of the association have been asked for suggestions and criticisms. Some have been received, but not as many as we desired and expected. It is hoped that, now, many who have been waiting for its completion will aid the committee by their comments.

The revised work will be submitted to the council for their approval with a view of having it published by the publishing section. A reliable publishing house has offered to print and give the association 3000 copies without expense, provided they were allowed to insert advertisement and own the copy-right. This offer, which is still open, it was thought best to decline, as it appears more dignified to include no outside matter, and for the association to retain control of the book.

Please send suggestions and criticisms to J. C. Dana, president, Denver, Col., or H. L. Elmendorf, secretary, St Joseph, Mo.

### Comments on A. L. A. Primer

#### Chapter 3

In response to a request for comments and criticisms on the A. L. A. Library Primer as printed in the PUBLIC LIBRARIES I beg leave to be heard as follows:

I wish most heartily to approve the idea and to commend its execution. In many cases where the statement does not fit my practice, it happens to be where the natural sentiment is so far opposed to the suggestion that the statement as made will tend to secure just about the right practice.

In two respects I feel that I must dissent. The statements both occur on page 7.

I feel that the question of access to the shelves is a local question, and should not be dogmatically treated in a preliminary text-book. In general, I believe that with intelligent management, more economy of space, better practical results can be reached by exclusion of the public from the shelves than otherwise.

The assertion is made directly that "the public library is not a business office." In my opinion it should be just as pointedly stated that it is a business office. A library can do no more useful a work than in training its patrons to comply with business forms and methods, and librarian and assistants should have tact enough to secure rigid

adherence to every rule, and yet secure the support of the patrons.

Very truly yours,

JOHN F. DAVIES, *Librarian.*

Butte, Mont., June 1, 1896.

I would mention the following apparent discrepancies in A. L. A. Primer in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Shelf-list is considered in chapter 10 under Classifying. Might it not have a separate heading? In fact, would not a good many full-face subheadings be useful?

And why not add to the form of a shelf-list, if kept on sheets or cards, the size and no. of pp. of a book? It would come very frequently, almost continually, useful and convenient in looking for lost or missing books.

Class no. is to be placed on the accession book, according to chapter 9. In the "order of business" given in chapter 12 the classification is no. 12, while the entry in accession book is no. 7. Does that necessitate a second entry for the class (and book) no. in accession book? Might it not be made at one time?

B. A. FINNEY.

University of Michigan.

General library.

Would it not be better to postpone the final printing of the Primer until after a general discussion of its plans and principles at the Cleveland meeting? No doubt a sufficient number of the preliminary chapters can be brought to the meeting to furnish the text for discussion. One will feel more confident that he has the authoritative statement after hearing what is said in a discussion of the kind proposed. There are several points which I should like to raise when the formal discussion is on, but which I have not time at present to prepare in a satisfactory way. This is too important a matter to be closed in a hurry.

LIBRARIAN.

Is not this Primer a little too much on the kindergarten plan? The scientific side of the work seems to be lost.

\* \* \*

## American Library Association

Eighteenth general conference

Cleveland, O., September 1-4, 1896

Post-conference trip, Cleveland to Mackinaw  
September 4-11

"The annual conference is the one event of the year to the enthusiastic librarian. He gets a change of scene, makes new friends, gathers up a great deal of valuable information, sees fresh libraries, picks up new ideas and enjoys the social gatherings of his brethren."

The outline of the program, as published last month, is being filled as rapidly as possible, and will be sent out in ample time for all to prepare themselves for the feast of good things which will be ready when the conference meets.

### CONFERENCE NOTES

**The library exhibit** will be a feature of the Cleveland Conference. Charles Scribner's Sons will show their model libraries. The Library Bureau will have an extensive exhibit of blanks, appliances, and furniture, including stacks. The Westervelt book stack will also be upon exhibition, and possibly others. Gustav E. Stechert has applied for space for a display of rare and interesting books.

**Souvenirs of previous conferences.**—The Albany library has consented to loan their collection of pictures of members, former officers, and former meeting places, also many other objects of interest. Members of the A. L. A. are asked to contribute anything they have that will add interest to this display.

**Informal session.**—F. M. Crunden, of St Louis, will be the chairman of the introduction committee for the informal session Tuesday evening, September 1. He will be assisted by 10 of the best known members of the association. Members of this committee will have charge of the arrangements for the evening, and will devote themselves especially to seeing that members are made acquainted with each other.

If an address of welcome is made it will be at this session. There will be no other speech making. The parlors

of the Hollenden hotel are particularly adapted for an occasion of this kind.

**First session.**—Wednesday morning, September 2. Following the president's address J. N. Larned, ex-president of the A. L. A., librarian of the Buffalo library, will speak with a subject entitled *Reprospect and prospect in the last years of the century*. Those that remember Mr Larned's Lake Placid address do not need to be told that this paper will be of great practical value. Mr Larned will be followed by Bernard H. Green, of Washington, D. C., who will speak on the new Congressional library.

**New and old books:** what to buy, will be Caroline M. Hewin's subject. This paper is now in the hands of the program committee. Though intended for the younger librarians it has many valuable hints for others of longer experience.

**Advertising a library.**—L. E. Stearns has issued a very attractive circular asking for information as to what extent our librarians are using printers' ink. Members will aid Miss Stearns and furnish some valuable statistics by replying promptly to her circular. The motto at the head of the sheet reads: "Advertising is business bait."

**Do's.**—Ellen M. Chandler has also sent out a circular asking for practical suggestions. Everyone has something in which they think they are particularly deft. Send it to Miss Chandler and tell the librarians to "Do" it.

**Trustees' section.**—A letter will be sent out July 1 to over 1000 library trustees, asking them to join the A. L. A. and be present at Cleveland. Great interest has been shown in the joint session and many prominent trustees will be present. Mr Crunden can be counted on to say the proper thing for librarians.

**The supplement to the A. L. A. catalog** is now in press and will be sent to all members of the A. L. A. early in July. A list of books will be selected by the committee for special discussion. Miss Cutler and her committee have per-



formed a vast amount of work on the completing of this list and the result will be of great value to the library world. Miss Cutler devoted her entire time for several months to perfecting the list. Members should carefully study the list and come to Cleveland prepared to comment upon the committee's selection.

**Librarian's annual report.**—Caroline H. Garland of Dover, in her paper on this subject, will instruct the young librarians. Some of the older ones may well profit by hints on uniformity in statistics, etc. Something breezy and bright is always expected from Miss Garland.

**Post-conference trip.**—Margaret Mann, of the Armour institute, has prepared a bibliography of the lake region. It is very complete, and although too long to publish entire, extracts from it will be printed, in the preliminary papers, with Miss Mann's permission. Mr Thwaites' paper on the historic features of the post-conference trip will also be sent out with the conference papers. Those intending to take the post-conference trip should, if they have not already done so, send their names to W: H. Brett, Cleveland, or to H. L. Elmendorf, St Joseph, Mo., at once.

**Northwest.**—"In the past ten years various places in the Northwest have been celebrating their centennials. This year Cleveland holds an exposition in honor of its first settlement in 1796. On July 11, 1796, the American flag was for the first time raised above Detroit. It will be remembered that in 1763 the territory north of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi, and south of the great lakes, was ceded to England by France, and that at the close of the revolution, by the treaty of 1783, it was transferred to the United States. The form of government for this large territory was earnestly debated in Congress, the outcome being the famous 'Ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio,' passed July 13, 1787. In the

framing of this ordinance and the early settlement of Ohio, Rev. Manasseh Cutler was one of the most prominent. Anyone wishing to become familiar with the condition of the country at that time, and the wisdom of our ancestors in political affairs, should consult his life and journals. Its history is one of the most dramatic in American annals."—*Salem Bulletin*.

**Railroad arrangements.**—A rate of one-and-one-third fare for the round trip has been granted by the central passenger committee, in whose territory Cleveland is located. All other associations have been notified, and will join in the rate, making the reduction available over all lines. The most direct and comfortable route will be selected. Parties will be made up from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Frank P. Hill, whose long experience in such matters particularly fits him for the position, will take charge of the railroad arrangements from the entire east. Members intending to go to Cleveland from the vicinity of New York should send their names to C: Alex Nelson, Columbia college library, or S. H. Berry, Y. M. C. A. library, Brooklyn, N. Y. Those starting from Philadelphia should communicate with T: L. Montgomery, librarian Wagner institute, Philadelphia. Owing to F: W. Faxon's intended departure for Europe, he will be unable to attend to the arrangements in Boston. Someone else, however, will be appointed and members promptly notified. G: B. Meleney, Chicago manager of the Library Bureau, will be in charge of the Chicago party. Circulars with full information, amount of fare from various points, time-tables, and itinerary, will be published as quickly as possible.

**Reading list.**—A short list of interesting mention made of the places along the route of the post-conference trip will be published in the next issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. This will be made up from poetry and fiction as well as history.

### Library Meetings

**Connecticut**—The Library association held its regular spring meeting on May 30, at the Young Men's institute library, New Haven.

In the absence of the president of the association, Mr Stetson, who was prevented from attending by diphtheria in his family, the senior vice president, Prof. D. N. Camp, of New Britain, took the chair.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, Mr W. C. Stone read a paper on A Massachusetts library. This was a careful study of the Springfield library, with which he is connected. Its evolution from the subscription library of early New England to the progressive free public library of the present day was traced and its methods explained.

Anna G Rockwell, of the New Britain institute, read an entertaining paper on the classification of government documents, saying that the system of arrangement was often to keep those bound in sheep together, probably for the reason that sheep are usually kept in flocks. She spoke of the crowded condition of the documents in the state library, and in Trinity college, and urged the importance of preserving small government pamphlets on subjects like birds' eggs or the diseases of the horse for the benefit of the reader with a hobby (whom the librarian loves more than the ninety-and-nine who do not stray from the paths of fiction) instead of destroying them to get them out of the way. The government printing office, she concluded, is the only publishing house in the country which does not print bad books to sell.

She was followed by Adelaide R. Hasse, librarian of the office of the superintendent of documents, Washington, who gave statistics of the office, which has been established about a year, has sent out 100,000v. to libraries, and has 200,000 in stock, including from 1,000 to 2,000 copies of some documents, and a model library of 15,000v., classified and collated. On account of the

system of publishing government documents in series and by numbers Miss Hasse believes that they should be kept by themselves, but if a library does not attempt to make a complete collection, sets may be broken up and classified under subjects.

The association passed a resolution urging the passage of the printing bill.

Tessa L. Kelso, formerly of Los Angeles, now of New York, spoke of the influence of a library, saying that the librarian is in many cases responsible for lack of interest felt by library trustees and lack of funds voted by towns and cities, that western libraries are much more important in the life of cities than eastern ones, that sums voted for them in the east seem insignificant in the west, and if the sum allotted every year for a public library is less than half the appropriation for schools something must be wrong. The librarian who cannot at once state the hobbies of every man or woman in town has not fulfilled his or her duty. A public library should be a place where class distinctions are forgotten, and where workmen and employers can meet on the common ground of a common interest in picture exhibitions or other shows, as they cannot anywhere else.

After an intermission spent in lunching and visiting Yale university and the public libraries, librarian Jonathan Trumbull of the Otis library, Norwich, read a carefully prepared list of Books relating to the history of Connecticut, which should be in every library in the state. Publisher and price were given and a brief evaluation.

Walter Learned, a trustee of the New London library, in an entertaining paper, drew with liberality and critical discrimination "The line of exclusion." He urged that the ethical purport of stories should be taken into consideration, giving Dickens as an instance of an author who has a high ethical aim and pure point of view. Fashions change and books go out of date. Nobody asks for books on the shelves which were condemned forty years

ago, but it is unwise to put into general circulation books of the same class when everybody is talking about them. Girls from 15 to 20 read more than boys of the same age, and care more for the modern hysterical novel. The books that Pomona reads do not injure her, but her mistress, who scorns Dickens' optimism and Thackeray's kindly cynicism as out of date, and George Eliot as didactic, reads a worse class of fiction than the maid. Mr Learned's advice to librarians and trustees as to buying novels is "When in doubt, don't."

On the business side of the subject, Miss Hewins, of the Hartford library, gave the association the benefit of her large experience with New and old books; what to buy. An informal discussion of the novel and children's books followed.

At the request of the president, Helen Sperry, of the Braddock (Pa.) library, gave an interesting sketch of her library.

It was voted that hereafter the association should not meet on legal holidays.

**New York**—The semiannual meeting of the State library association was held in Syracuse, May 29-30. An address of welcome was given by librarian E. W. Mundy, of Syracuse. He was followed by the president, J. N. Larned, of Buffalo, who spoke for free libraries, and held that no other institutions were doing more good or were more deserving than public libraries.

W. R. Eastman spoke on the library situation in central New York. He said that of 241 towns in 14 counties, 130 towns report no libraries. More money and effort should be put into existing institutions, attention should be fixed on the principle that the library, like the school, is to be of the people, for the people, and by the people, and supported by public taxation. District libraries should be organized under independent boards of management. New libraries should be established in the small towns and school districts.

B. G. Clapp, of Fulton, told of the efforts of that community toward starting a public library. After "the gift from a wealthy citizen" the rest was easy work.

The last paper of the afternoon was read by Fred Van Dusen, of Ogdensburg. He showed how a library supported by public funds had many advantages over one supported by fees or an association.

At 6 o'clock dinner was handsomely served to those present by the staff of the Syracuse library, followed by a social hour.

Prof. W. G. Ward, of Syracuse university, opened the evening session with Reading as a factor in education. He said that this topic was the result of recent movements and had come to be of great importance. To obtain a liberal education in any department of learning, one must study it through its various stages of development. This is a privilege extending to the great mass in all directions through the public library. People had come to see the importance of wide reading in education, and of research work, which is one of the latest and most important arts which a student learns.

W. D. Manvox, of Rome, showed the efficiency of the local press as an aid to the public library's work.

Saturday morning was devoted to the discussion of the Opportunity of the librarian to influence the reading of a community, by A. L. Peck, Gloversville, and Value of a library to a rural community, by Anna R. Phelps, Utica. This was followed by the report of Mary S. Cutler on the best books of 1895, a revision of the former report, and voted an improvement in many respects. The report is given in full elsewhere.

**South Carolina**—The Columbia library association held a public meeting at the opera house May 29, to explain its purposes to the people of Columbia.

Gen. Wade Hampton presided. He opened the meeting by telling of the value of the present library and its possibilities for the future, and assured the

audience of his deep sympathy with the movement.

John P. Thomas, jr., presented the plan of sustaining the library by fees.

Prof. Dreher spoke of public libraries and public schools; the two he regarded as twins. The graded schools have 1,600 books; during this session from 4,000 to 5,000 have been read, and graduates read about 100 books from the school library during their course. School children get books from the libraries and interest their parents in them and get them to read.

Dr. W. E. Evans spoke of books as they afford recreation. The joy of books, he held, came after thought. He deprecated the reading of unclean books under any circumstances. There is too much that is pure to study in nature to read unclean works. He went over the field of literature and advised how to get satisfaction out of good books.

Gen. Youmans was then introduced. He spoke on the blessing of books. Horace, he held, was more read than any other poet. Gen. Youmans, with a brilliant flow of language, reviewed the literature of ages and what famous authors had said and done to make books blessed.

Bishop Capers spoke of the zeal and labors of Columbians in this public work. He took up the matter in a practical way, and said no better investment could be made than in a public library.

Prof. F. C. Woodward, of the South Carolina college, spoke of the object of the association. As president, he returned thanks to the speakers. He hopes to see the present library made the basis of a great public library.

The library movement is in good hands, and is quite certain of success.

**New Jersey.**—The semiannual meeting of the library association was held in the trustees' room of Princeton college library May 20. A large number of members were present.

President Patton, in a brief address, cordially welcomed the association to Princeton, and spoke of the great work

being done by the libraries of the country.

Miss Burdick, of Jersey City, read an interesting paper on the educational work of the Jersey City library, mentioning especially the coöperation of the library with schools and teachers, and the direct and personal influence on the children themselves by forming special lists of reading matter for them.

This paper was followed by a report on library legislation in New Jersey. Sincere regret was expressed at the veto of the library commission bill.

Dr. Richardson, of the Princeton college library, then read a brief paper on The duties of local libraries to local history. He spoke of the plans that are being made at Princeton for a most exhaustive gathering of material relating to local New Jersey history. The New Jersey historical society has been invited to make its headquarters here, and facilities have been offered for its history and general business. Dr. Richardson advocated the local collection idea for every town, urging its broadening to anything which is of general historical interest, and also by the thorough and complete collection of everything which relates to the place.

W. R. Weeks, of Newark, then read an able paper on the New Jersey historical society. He said the society ought to be the first and foremost in the land, but its present quarters are absolutely inadequate for the valuable collections it possesses. Newark, he said, lost the college of New Jersey 150 years ago as the result of indifference of its citizens and there seemed a possibility of its losing the Historical society also. Princeton's offer seemed a godsend to the society and was most alluring. He hoped, however, that on removing to Princeton the society would not fall into a Rip Van Winkle sleep. Mr. Weeks suggested a meeting of the association in Princeton in 1900, and he drew a glowing picture of the university library a few years hence, with the rare collection of the New Jersey historical society within its walls.



### Schools and Libraries

Much has been said lately about the relation between schools and libraries, and in all that has met my eye, the plan, it seems to me, has been calculated to destroy some of the essential benefits of the public library without a corresponding gain on the part of the school. Having been both a teacher and a librarian in my time, it seems to me that much that is proposed is wrong. The following treatment of the subject was lately brought to my notice, and while I do not know the source, it so fully expresses some of my ideas that I venture to present it to the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

"The plan proposed by some educational people for the carrying of library books to the schools seems essentially wrong. Encourage the pupils to go to the library; urge them to go; make necessary errands for those who are chronically disinclined to books, if need be, but don't add to the duties of the already despairing, faithful teacher, or rob the child of half of the benefit of the book itself by bringing it to the school and placing it in his hand there.

"In many sections of a large city this method might be useful if an otherwise unused room and the services of a teacher could be given for the proper care of the books. Certainly in a small town the plan is not necessary, and a library would lose by it a great part of its power. It is only in the library building that a child will learn the use of catalogs, card collections, bulletins, indices, and all the necessary mechanism of successful and intelligent use of the books themselves.

"The general reading-room and the magazine rooms of a library have also a value quite apart from the actual use of the books. Even the casual visitor cannot fail to be impressed by the air of utter oblivion to everything else, of entire absorption in the subject of study exhibited by most of the readers at a library such as the Athenæum, the Harvard college library, and the long and usually crowded Bates hall. The fre-

quent student gets used to seeing the same people in the same places day after day, concentrating every energy upon the matter in hand. To a less degree, the same atmosphere obtains in any public room set apart for silent reading or study.

"Young people, being very susceptible to external influences, learn many valuable lessons from the concentration and devotion of the older students and readers. In no other place except a library, moreover, does one gain that conformity to rule; that restraint of speech or action that interrupts and annoys one's fellow-students, oftentimes to the entire annihilation of a train of thought.

"Another and very material advantage of sending the pupil to the library is the variety of subject which at one time and another falls under his observant eyes. While waiting for one's own book, there may be another book conveniently near. It proves new, interesting; perhaps half an hour goes into an examination of a book which had not previously come into the knowledge of the reader. A wholesome curiosity is excited, title and author are noted for future reading, and the seeds of information have been widely sown, yet without conscious effort in behalf of the youthful mind. Then the catalogs themselves are valuable teachers, since they require patience, thoroughness and accuracy for their successful use, besides indirectly instructing in the spelling of titles and authors.

"Then, too, in a library, large or small, the absolute need of *system* is impressed upon the child's mind. Even the youngest child who uses the library becomes unconsciously impressed with the entire necessity of not only a place for everything, but a logical and classified place for everything.

MARIE MILLER.

Indianapolis, Ind.

Speak low—tread softly through these halls;  
Here genius lives enshrined—  
Here reign in silent majesty  
The monarchs of the mind.—A. C. E. Batta.

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau - - - - - Publishers

M. E. AHERN - - - - - Editor

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WE are much encouraged in our work by the great number of commendatory words received since the issue of our first number, and we gratefully express our appreciation of the same. We shall endeavor to merit the kind assurances of good will, and hope that as occasion arises where PUBLIC LIBRARIES can serve the interests of the library cause in any manner, we shall still be found worthy of the confidence so generously bestowed.

THE state of Iowa is to be congratulated on the impetus given to library matters in the state in the past year. The law establishing the scheme of traveling libraries goes into effect July 1, and an interest never before felt in the matter is showing throughout the state. The State librarian reports numerous inquiries as to the requirements and privilege, and remote communities, clubs, reading circles and small libraries are moving to take advantage of the law. There is nothing complicated or working a hardship in the matter, and PUBLIC LIBRARIES hopes to see similar laws enacted in many states in the next few years.

RECENT statistics show the marvelous growth of public libraries in the United States. There are nearly 52,000-000 books in the public libraries of the country. When one considers what this dissemination of reading matter under proper guidance may accomplish, the mission of the librarian appears second to none. The opportunity of the age is in the grasp of library workers. The richness, the beauty, the strength—the unfolding of the flowers and the ripening of the fruit—of all the great minds which it is their privilege to present, carries also a duty which should be discharged in whole-hearted, sympathetic service. The technical part is important in its place, but must be secondary to this sympathetic interest and form the lesser part in the great plan. A realization of all these things constitutes what is aptly termed the library spirit. The problem of getting these books into the hands of the people who should have them is occupying the hearts and minds of many today, and is the plan and purpose of the new library movement; for the number of readers means much more than the number of books.

THE growing interest in libraries at large is illustrated by the resolution unanimously passed in the recent meeting of the Indiana Union of literary clubs, as it also bespeaks the good work accomplished by the 130 clubs which are represented in the Union. The American people, as a rule, celebrate special events in their history by a blare of drums, a display of color, and exuberance of enthusiasm which usually takes the form of noise and show. These things have their place, and are proper at the right time. But there is something lofty, dignified, and eminently more fitting in the desire to celebrate a centennial of growth under difficulties, by opening to the people of the incoming century a system of public libraries. The situation is full of meaning when one remembers that a large majority of these club members are women; it shows a comprehension of

the value of libraries by those whose diverse interests and relations make for broad judgment and comprehension as to what will upbuild the social, moral, and intellectual strength of a community. \$500,000 invested in starting a system of public libraries will bear more increase in prosperity in the community than four times the amount spent in a display of material wealth which would be viewed by all the world. The suggestion in the resolution certainly deserves consideration from the people of that state, and the library world will hope that the plan will be carried out.

THE fact of the A. L. A. being in the neighborhood of so many of the new libraries in the middle west, makes it possible for many librarians to attend this year who have never had the privilege before. Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa should be fully represented. In view of the session specially devoted to beginners, it is desirable and will be profitable for an unusually large number of new workers to attend.

THE recent election of library trustees in Cleveland shows one of the causes why the public library of that city deserves to be classed, as it is, among the best administered and most successful libraries in the country.

Judge J. C. Hutchins begins his third term of three years as a member of the library board and his fifth year as president of the same.

J. A. Smith begins his second term of three years. A library is sure of experienced judgment in its business affairs when the same officers are continued during a period long enough to develop and carry out the plan of its government. Library officers doing good work should not be changed so long as they choose to act. Any other policy is detrimental to the best interests of all concerned.

THE spirit of organization, which is the spirit of charity in its broadest sense, is permeating every line of work. It is

seen in its most pleasant form in the meetings of the Western association of writers which are held every year at Winona Park, Warsaw, Ind. For eleven years this gathering of congenial spirits has held to its ideal—the full development of the best in their work and in themselves—undisturbed by lack of appreciation, by the changes of time, by good fortune or by ill. There is something refreshing, inspiring, in the atmosphere of the meetings that cannot be explained or described. What the members would be or would do, that for the time they are and have done. A feeling of satisfied longing, of accomplished ambition, without listlessness, without flaunting, seems to pervade the whole place. Librarians can well wish for the success of an association of this kind.

THE interest in athletics in higher educational institutions has increased in the last few years until there has arisen a fear that physical culture was receiving attention to the detriment of mental. The statistics as to the class standing of those engaging in the different events in athletics prove the fear groundless, as the highest standing in field work is usually accompanied by a corresponding record in classroom. There has been some criticism of gymnasiums in connection with public libraries. That they do not interfere with the education given out by a library is demonstrated by the statistics of the libraries having them. The Braddock (Pa.) library, with the athletic and musical features in close relation, circulates more volumes to the inhabitant than any library in the state.

THE action of the N. E. A. on the library question will be watched with interest by the library world. It is a complex question, and its many phases present room for disagreement; but there is reason to believe that the situation will be fairly met. Whether a library section is admitted into the N. E. A. or not, PUBLIC LIBRARIES extends kindly greetings and best wishes for a pleasant and profitable meeting.

### Best books of 1895 for a Village library

Made up by combining the votes of 15 librarians selected as expert judges of books; revised by M. S. Cutler after consultation with J. N. Larned, and accepted at the Syracuse meeting of the New York state library association, May 30, 1896.

#### BOOKS OF REFERENCE

**Leyboldt, Mrs A. H. and Iles, George.** List of books for girls and women and their clubs. L. B. \$1.

**Willsey, J. H. comp.** Harper's book of facts. Harper, \$8.

#### RELIGION

**Balfour, A. J.** Foundations of belief. Longmans, \$2.

Alden's Study of death and Leroy Beaulieu's Israel among the nations are suggested as alternates for a small library where it is thought Balfour would not find readers.

#### SOCIAL SCIENCE

**Brooks, Noah.** How the republic is governed. Scribner, 75c.

**Shaw, Albert.** Municipal government in Continental Europe. Century, \$2.

— Municipal government in Great Britain. Century, \$2.

Mr Larned would omit Shaw's books for a small library and put in Useful arts, Mason's Origins of invention, and Shaler's Domesticated animals.

**Wright, C. D.** Industrial evolution of the United States. (Chautauqua.) Flood, \$1.

#### EDUCATION

**Martin, G. H.** Evolution of the Massachusetts public school system. (Internat. educ. ser.) Appleton, \$1.50.

**Wiggin, Mrs K. D. and Smith, N. A.** Froebel's gifts. (The republic of childhood, v. i.) Houghton, \$1.

#### FOLKLORE AND FAIRY TALES

**Harris, J. C.** Mr Rabbit at home. Houghton, \$2.

**Lang, Andrew.** My own fairy book. Longmans, \$2.

#### NATURAL SCIENCE

**Clodd, Edward.** Story of primitive man. (Lib. of useful stories.) Appleton, 40c.

**Lowell, Percival.** Mars. Houghton, \$2.50.

**Scudder, S. H.** Frail children of the air. Houghton, \$1.50.

**Wright, M. O.** Birdcraft. Macmillan, \$3.

#### USEFUL ARTS

**Atkinson, Philip.** Electricity for everybody. Century, \$1.50.

See note under Social science.

#### NEW LIT MUSIC

**Guerber, H. A.** Stories of the Wagner operas. Dodd, \$1.50.

#### AMUSEMENTS AND SPORTS

**Porter, L. H.** Cycling for health and pleasure. Dodd, \$1.

#### FICTION

**Barlow.** Strangers at Lisconnell. Dodd, \$1.25.

**Burnham, Mrs C. L.** The wise woman. Houghton, \$1.25.

**Clemens, S. L.** Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson. Am. pub. co., \$2.50.

**Coffin, C. C.** Daughters of the revolution and their times. Houghton, \$1.50.

**Crawford, F. M.** The Ralstons. 2 v. Macmillan, \$2.

**Davis, R. H.** Princess Aline. Harper, \$1.25.

**Grahame, Kenneth.** The golden age. Stone, \$1.25.

**Jewett, S. O.** Life of Nancy. Houghton, \$1.25.

**Maartens, Maarten, pseud.** My lady Nobody. Harper, \$1.50.

**Maclaren, Ian, pseud.** Days of auld lang syne. Dodd, \$1.25.

**Parker, Gilbert.** When Valmond came to Pontiac. Stone, \$1.50.

**Smith, F. H.** Gentleman vagabond and some others. Houghton.

**Stockton, F. R.** Adventures of Captain Horn. Scribner, \$1.50.

**Ward, Mrs E. S. P.** A singular life. Houghton, \$1.25.

**Weyman, S. J.** From the memoirs of a minister of France. Longmans, \$1.25.

— Red cockade. Harper, \$1.50.

**Wiggin, Mrs K. D.** Village watch-tower. Houghton, \$1.



Zangwill, Israel. The master. Harper, \$1.75.

## JUVENILE

Brown, H. D. Little Miss Phoebe Gay. Houghton, \$1.

Henty, G. A. Knight of the white cross. Scribner, \$1.50. Or

— Through Russian snows. Scribner, \$1.50. Or

— Tiger of Mysore. Scribner, \$1.50.

Kipling, Rudyard. Second jungle book. Century, \$1.50.

Lang, Andrew. Red true story-book. Longmans, \$2.

Munroe, Kirk. At war with Pontiac. Scribner, \$1.25.

Thaxter, Mrs Celia. Stories and poems for children. Houghton, \$1.50.

## POETRY

Stedman, E. C. Victorian anthology, 1837-1895. Houghton, \$2.50.

## OTHER LITERATURE

Van Dyke, Henry. Little rivers. Scribner, \$2.

## DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

Bourget, Paul. Outre-mer. Scribner, \$1.75.

Davis, R. H. About Paris. Harper, \$1.25.

Hapgood, I. F. Russian rambles. Houghton, \$1.50.

King, Grace. New Orleans, the place and the people. Macmillan, \$2.50.

Norman, Henry. Peoples and politics of the far East. Scribner, \$4.

Ralph, Julian. Dixie. Harper, \$2.50.

Remington, Frederick. Pony tracks. Harper, \$3.

Stevenson, R. L. Amateur emigrant from the Clyde to Sandy Hook. Stone, \$1.25.

Vincent, Frank. Actual Africa. Appleton, \$5.

## BIOGRAPHY

Arnold, Matthew. Letters of Matthew Arnold, 1848-1888. 2 v. Macmillan, \$3.

Sherman, John. Recollections of 40 years in the house, senate and cabinet. 2 v. Werner co., \$7.50.

Stevenson, R. L. Vailima letters. 2 v. Stone & Kimball, \$2.25.

## EUROPEAN HISTORY

Baird, H. M. Huguenots and the revocation of the edict of Nantes. 2 v. Scribner, \$7.50.

Greene, F. D. Armenian crisis in Turkey. Putnam, \$1.

New edition under title, "The rule of the Turk," should be bought now.

Latimer, Mrs E. W. Europe in Africa in the 19th century. McClurg, \$2.50.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

Grinnell, G. B. Story of the Indian. (Story of the West ser.) Appleton, \$1.50.

Lodge, H. C. and Roosevelt, Theodore. Hero tales from American history. Century, \$1.50.

Walker, F. A. Making of the nation, 1783-1817. (American hist. ser.) Scribner, \$1.25.

THERE can be small difference of opinion about the desirability of introducing literature as a regular part of primary and grammar school courses; one cannot doubt that inspiring books of travel, exploration, and history, in connection with map study, leave a much larger residuum of geographical knowledge than the old-fashioned set text-books; nor that to be able to read and care for good books is a more fundamental thing in education than analytic grammar. There is no reluctance on the part of school boards to see this, at present, and actual revisions of school courses have been made in a number of our cities and counties, making place—in some cases large place—for literature in the curriculum.

But one must consider how far the school should choose books for use as collateral reading in their studies—as a means of historic and geographic and scientific information—and how far for the mere pleasure and quickening of the child. A child has as much right to read a thing simply and only because it is a thoroughly good story, heartily entertaining, as we have, and we set a great value on that right ourselves.—*Milicent W. Shinn.*

## School Libraries and Public Libraries

W: Warner Bishop

(Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.)

The fact that there is a dividing line which separates sharply two classes of libraries, receives hardly the attention that its importance demands. The public library finds its reason for existence in its value in promoting the general welfare of the community. So well is this understood that the motto, "The best reading at the least cost for the greatest number," sums up the present idea and theory of the public library. It stands in the same ground upon which the public school is founded. The community that has the power of taxing itself to establish schools has also the power to establish libraries.

The school library exists for the particular welfare of the school. It is as much a part of the school's furnishing as the blackboard or the laboratory apparatus, and finds its justification in the needs of the school and in those needs only. If once this is granted, then the differences between the school library and the public library may with propriety be studied to some conclusions of mutual advantage to both.

It will appear clearly that the public library must not be hampered in its growth by the undue and excessive development of the school library. The former stands in a nearer and in some respects a more vital relation to the community than the latter. It does not and cannot undertake to furnish the school with laboratory apparatus, for that is what the school library is, unless its funds are sufficiently large to make such use of them of no harm to the interests of the community to which the public library owes its first duty. In small villages or in farming communities the schools may be the centers of what literary effort exists, and whatever libraries are gathered may well be placed in them, but in towns sufficiently large to support a good public library, it seems a pity that the effort to start or maintain one should be hampered by

the idea that a few books in each school will serve a better purpose.

Again, the existence of a public library, so far from harming or detracting from the school library, will prove a positive help in maintaining a good library in each school of a grade high enough to warrant one. It is folly to suppose that the public library will be of less advantage to the schools in towns of over 4,000 population than small libraries scattered in each small school. The mere fact of the necessary duplication of books of a sort which are seldom used shows the unwisdom of such a condition of things.

But aside from the struggle for existence which is going on in some places, there are certain phases of these two forms of the library movement which demand attention. The problems of management of the two are diverse. The public library must satisfy as best it can the wide and varied demands of the whole public, *including the school and its teachers*. Its sphere is wide and it must be managed with an eye single to the proper performance of its wide functions. This means careful and close study of the needs of all its constituents, proper cataloging with those needs in view, proper buying, and rules that must be adapted to those who use the library—the general public.

The school library, on the contrary, is limited in its use to the pupils in the school and in its range to their work. Its management must be directed to meet the demands of the teachers in providing books in the best way to supplement or to aid in the work of the classroom. It is unfair to the school's best interest to assume that the school library can best be managed by the librarian of the public library, or, on the other hand, that the school should assume the duties and responsibilities involved in furnishing books to the public. There is no conflict between the school library and the public library. They are mutually helpful and supplement one another. The public library is no place for large collections of works on Latin literature or integral cal-

culus, unless it be very wealthy. The college library must have these works. They are needed there, but not so travel, history, biography, and fiction in great quantities. The public library has no more need of special subject indexes of works dealing with justification by faith than the theological library has of a special index to Patent Office reports. The cataloger in the public library must do his work with the average intelligence, that most indefinite and intangible thing constantly in mind. His brother of the school library must have his curriculum and the references to be given by the teachers before him or he fails sadly.

Our plea is for the recognition by the persons interested in libraries of these two different phases of the same movement. They are not inimical to one another. In towns of very small size, and in farming communities, the schools should undoubtedly be looked after first, and every effort made to secure traveling libraries for the public. But when the population will support a public library the true friends of the school should heartily support the movement to form one, for the school library cannot do the work of the other. The reasons given above appeal mainly to librarians. Many others might be cited, among which may be mentioned the facts that the schools have long and short vacations, are generally closed at four in the afternoon and all day Saturday, and need all the energy that can be directed to library work for their own special department.

The recognition of this division will have a very strong influence on school libraries. This is a field for missionary work and none are more willing to assist in it than the librarians of public libraries. Coöperation is not only possible but practical. Still the school library must work out its own salvation. Because the field is narrow the difficulties are not eliminated. In schools and colleges there is the greatest need for careful study of the problems of the library, of persistent effort, of experiment, and above all of an enthusiasm

that is wedded to patience. The constituency is highly organized, coherent, and extremely critical as well as correspondingly responsive. The work has its reward as well as its trials.

The writer is confident that the school library in its proper place will prove of greater use, and will grow in numbers and size in the near future. Colleges that twenty years ago opened their libraries for three hours a week now have them open from nine to twelve hours a day. High schools that had a Webster dictionary and a Mitchell's geography, with a few ancient reports of the State agricultural society or of the Bureau of education, now show their hundreds of fair volumes carefully selected for the illustration of their work. The public libraries are coöperating zealously with even the primary schools. In mutual helpfulness and individual effort these two branches of the stream of library activity unite to educate the people to a knowledge of the mission of books. A frank recognition of their different methods and their common ends will greatly aid both in attaining the best results.

I AM sometimes asked by young people to recommend a course of reading. My advice would be that they should confine themselves to the supreme books in whatever literature, or better still, to choose some one great author and make themselves thoroughly familiar with him. You will find that, in order to understand perfectly and weigh exactly any vital piece of literature, you will be gradually and pleasantly persuaded to excursions of which you little dreamed when you began, and will find yourselves scholars before you are aware. This method also forces upon us the necessity of thinking, which is, after all, the highest result of all education. For what we want is not learning, but knowledge; that is, the power to make learning answer its true end as a quickener of intelligence and a widener of the intellectual sympathies.—*James Russell Lowell (Democracy and other addresses).*

### Notes by the Way

Don't make an idol of your library. Snatch time outside for study, reading and sleep. The library work will be done with a more elastic mind, a more penetrating vision, and a more serene spirit than if it were the only interest of your life.—*L. E. W. Benedict.*

As waste in binding comes from not using material suited to the purpose, the beginner's first business is to inform himself carefully as to character, value, cost and strength of all common binding material.—*D. V. R. Johnson.*

For electric lighting of a reading-room place the lights high up near the ceiling with strong reflectors over them, rather than low, or on the tables. Electric light is not naturally so diffused as other forms of artificial light. Its direct rays are more intense and cast stronger shadows. If placed high and so near together that the rays from each reflector are thrown within the circumference of the rays from the neighboring reflectors, the most satisfactory results will be obtained.—*H. M. Utley.*

Feel a real interest in the teachers and their work and never be too busy to pass a friendly word with them. Seek personal intercourse with the teachers, and explain the aim and value of the work you propose.—*H. P. James.*

A library may be compared to a watch each part in which depends on the proper action of the other, and where poor work in the least member affects the whole.—*J. L. Whitney.*

It is more economical to classify a number of books first, and to catalog them afterwards, as otherwise the tools used in each process have to be gotten ready for each book.—*J. C. Dana.*

Book covers have individuality, and often help to select books. Assistants learn to know the appearance of a book and can point it out or pick it up from a whole case when in a hurry. It is hardly necessary to warn the busy librarian

against covering books, it is usually the library board which has to be persuaded against entering upon so troublesome a path.—*M. W. Plummer.*

Reference books and those on science and useful arts should always be the latest editions. Earlier editions have their historical value, but should be left to the special libraries. Books on zoölogy, geology and botany should be by American in preference to foreign authors, unless the subject is treated from a general standpoint or the author is a leader in thought.—*G. M. Jones.*

School libraries should contain an abundance of what may be called collateral reading, relating to every part of the curriculum. When a volume is found to be both instructive and specially interesting, duplicate it. More is accomplished by five copies of a good book that finds its own readers than by ten good books that must be helped to an audience.—*G. T. Little.*

There is an advantage in having all the cards used in the library (catalog, readers, surety, duplicate, order, etc., etc.) of uniform shape and size. The convenience of this will be found in using book pockets, drawers, etc., interchangeably, for filing or storing such cards.—*H. M. Utley.*

Put into each volume before it goes to the bindery a slip showing the exact lettering which you wish put on the book and giving directions, and require this slip to be returned with the book.—*M. W. Plummer.*

Prepare bulletins for special days or occasions, and print them in the local newspaper. Post in a conspicuous place in the library, days when the different magazines may be expected.—*Marie Miller.*

Have associates and friends outside of the limits of your own profession, to whom life means other things from what it means to you, and who can help you to enlarge its meaning for yourself.—*Phillips Brooks.*



## News from the Library Field

## East

Mrs Anna M. Fales has been elected librarian at West Medway (Mass.)

The gift of T. B. Blackstone, of Chicago, to Branford (Conn.), a handsome library building fully equipped, and costing over \$300,000, was formally received by the town June 17.

The annual report of the librarian of New Britain (Conn.) institute shows an addition of 2,657v., circulation 26,713v., and a decrease of 6 per cent. in the proportion of fiction.

A recent report of the Hartford (Conn.) public library shows that fewer books were taken out last year than the year before, but that the decline in the circulation of fiction was greater than the falling off in all departments, showing an increased use of other classes of books. The circulation last year was 201,581v.

Interest in the establishment of free public libraries in the cities and towns of Maine is growing rapidly, as appears from the applications made under the new law for state aid to such libraries. By this law the state adds 10 per cent to the amount raised by any city or town in support of a free library, and the amount thus far paid by the state treasurer is larger for this year than for any previous year since the law went into effect. Already twenty towns and cities have raised \$14,218 in the support of free libraries, and the state has paid them \$1,421.80.

Col. Thomas Higginson has spent fifty years in collecting an unique library, which he has just presented to Radcliffe college, formerly known as the Harvard Annex. The collection, which is known as the Galatea library, is believed to cover the history of woman better than any other library in the world, and the literature of all languages has been ransacked in its making. Its documents in regard to the learned women of the middle ages, who were scholars and professors at the

Italian universities, is especially complete. It also contains a large amount of information regarding the women who have distinguished themselves in warfare in the annals of Europe, and who, with the one exception of Joan of Arc, are completely forgotten today. There are about five hundred of these, and there is also a very long list of the famous and forgotten who in the past have distinguished themselves in medicine, astronomy, mathematics, botany, zoölogy, philosophy, and other branches of abstract thought, as well as of those known in commerce and manufactures.

## Central Atlantic

Mrs Anna B. Jeffers, the first woman to hold a political position in Maryland, has assumed control of the state library.

Mary P. Farr, of the library class of '95 of Drexel institute, has been appointed librarian in the Girls' Normal school of Philadelphia.

Anna B. White, of the class of '96 of Pratt institute, has been selected to take charge of the children's department of Pratt institute free library.

The corner-stone of the new building for the Catholic lyceum and public library of Northeast Camden (N. J.) will be laid with appropriate ceremonies July 4.

Columbia college library has received a gift of valuable Hebrew manuscripts, which will make Columbia's collection of such manuscripts the largest in the country. It has also received \$6,000 for the library fund.

Information direct from librarian E. H. Anderson, of Carnegie library at Pittsburg, says that the whole annual appropriation for the library from the city has been received, and there is no likelihood of trouble about future appropriation.

The public library of Harrisburg, (Pa.) has received a bequest of \$60,000 from the late Sara J. Haley. The income from \$50,000 will be used to keep the shelves supplied with the latest and

best books, and \$10,000 will be set aside as a nucleus of a building fund.

The first annual report of librarian E. H. Anderson, of Carnegie library, shows 21,374v. in library; borrowers, 6,293; circulation, 41,992v.; reference use, 5,621v. The library has been open to the public only since November, 1895. February 1, 1896, a separate room for children's use was opened.

Pratt institute has added a second year to the course in library science. It is not wholly an extension of the first year's work, but rather a development of the historical and bibliographical phase. The entrance examination requires some knowledge of general literature, history, current events, library economy, French, German and Latin.

The Pratt institute free library was opened in Brooklyn, May 26. The opening ceremonies were attended by a large gathering of people, many of whom were librarians. Addresses were made by C. M. Pratt, Truman J. Bachus, Melvil Dewey, and Margaret Deland. Pratt institute has maintained a free public library from its beginning, but its growth has been constant and it has advanced to its limits several times, until today the facilities furnished by the new building will be used to advantage in many directions, not the least of which will be in the library training class.

The Buffalo library children's reading-room was opened Monday, June 29. The room, which is pleasantly and conveniently situated on the second floor of the building, is supplied with a careful selection of books and periodicals for children of all ages below fourteen years, including pictures and picture-books for the very youngest. It is suitably furnished with chairs and tables adapted in height to small readers. The room will be under the care of a lady who is believed to be especially fitted, both by character and training, to attract children to the place, interest them in good reading, and give them judicious guidance in it. Like the other

reading-rooms of the library, this children's room will be freely open to all who come, and is expected to be the means of drawing within the range of the influence of good books very many of the young of the city who might otherwise never know their refining charm. The idea of making this kind of special provision for children, in connection with public libraries, is one of quite recent development; but it is strongly recommended by the few experiments in which it has been tried, and it is now generally accepted and adopted in the plans of the newer library buildings—as at Boston, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago, and elsewhere.

#### South

Columbia (S. C.) has organized a public library association whose members are actively engaged in getting means for the library which they hope to start soon.

Mary Nelson has been elected to succeed M. L. Davis as librarian of Lawson-McGhee library at Knoxville (Tenn.), her term beginning July 1. She will be assisted by Sadie McIntosh.

Little Rock (Ark.) is agitating the question of a free public library. A gift of \$5,000 came to the city in 1883 for the establishment of a public library from H. G. Marquand. Only \$1,000 was used to start the library, the remainder being put at interest to support it. The library has not been very active, and a movement toward investing the full amount and looking for support from the city is now on foot.

#### Central

Newberry library, of Chicago, is planning for a section exclusively devoted to military literature.

Cornelia Marvin will reorganize the public library of Davenport (Ia.) during July and August.

The Waterloo (Ia.) city council has adopted an ordinance to establish and maintain a free public library.

Mrs Nellie Jones, who has been librarian at Redwing (Minn.) since the

library started, has resigned, and Mrs Lillian Tandy has been elected in her place.

Margaret Mann, of the class of '96 of Armour institute, has been appointed cataloger and instructor in cataloging in the library of that institution.

The library directors of Green Bay (Wis.) have changed the name of the public library of that city to Kellogg public library, in memory of Rufus B. Kellogg, a benefactor.

Ida D. Aikins, formerly of Toronto, but during the past year in the library class at Armour institute, has been elected to the catalog department in St Louis public library.

Mabel Marvin, who has been a student at Armour institute in the department of library science during the past year, has been appointed an assistant in the office of the department.

Linda Eastman, formerly in charge of a branch library in Cleveland (O.), but during the past year assistant librarian of Dayton (O.), has been elected first assistant librarian of Cleveland.

Emma B. Baskett has been elected librarian of Sedalia (Mo.). The institution has just finished a successful year under the management of the city. The average monthly book issues has been 2,500v.

Reports of damage to the Mercantile library in St Louis are not well founded, the repairing which followed the storm having been decided upon previously.

Cornelia Marvin will be instructor in bibliography and reference work in Armour institute library class next year, and at the same time do work in organizing libraries on the Scribner's plan in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Her headquarters will be in Chicago.

The state library commission of Wisconsin at its meeting in Madison re-elected F. A. Hutchins, of Baraboo, chairman, and Lutie E. Stearns, of Milwaukee, secretary. A committee of three, consisting of Chairman Hutch-

ins, Secretary Stearns, and Reuben G. Thwaites, was appointed to prepare lists of books for small libraries.

The contract for the library building of the University of Illinois has been let for \$131,000. Work will begin at once, as it is specified in the contract that the building must be ready for use by June 1, 1897. The library will be furnished with L. B. steel stacks, and all the latest library facilities.

J. D. Witter, of Grand Rapids, Wis., has given \$1,000 to provide traveling libraries in Wood county, Wis. He has given also \$5,000 to the public library of Grand Rapids as an endowment fund, and has offered Centralia the same amount for a library building if the city will agree to support a library.

P. M. Crapo, financial agent of the Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company for Iowa, has given \$20,000 to Burlington for a public library building costing \$40,000, the other half having been raised by various means through the efforts of the library trustees and the library force. Clara Smith is librarian, assisted by Emma Schmidt.

Detroit public library has just opened a children's reading-room on the ground floor of the new addition to the library. It is light, airy, and well suited to the purpose. Table room and seating capacity are furnished for 50. Shelves containing 3,000v. line two sides of the room. The books are on history, travel, biography, science, and general literature, with a good supply of fiction, and bound volumes of juvenile periodicals. There is free access to the shelves, with attendants in charge to counsel and direct. The room is entered directly from the street, and all business with the children is to be transacted hereafter in the children's department.

The library of the University settlement in Chicago has now 700v. and is constantly growing. On Saturday, May 2, the borrowers and the home libraries of the neighborhood were invited to the rooms to a library party. The making of a book was explained in detail,

Miss Wilson told of the invention of printing, followed by a graphic description of the art at the present day, illustrated with type, proof, etc., by Mr Donnelly. Miss Henderson, of Armour institute, described in a very interesting way the binding of a book. The writing of books followed, and other interesting facts about them. At the close it was not difficult to extract a promise from the audience that all books should be better cared for hereafter.

At the annual meeting of the Indiana Union of literary clubs held June 3-5, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

*"Resolved,* That the centennial commission, appointed to report to the next General assembly a plan for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Indiana as a territory of the United States; be requested to consider the propriety of commemorating the event by a liberal appropriation and wise law authorizing the establishment and perpetual maintenance of libraries accessible to the whole people of the state. The manner of commemoration embodies possibilities for the state and its citizens that transcend in value any possible exposition of the material resources."

Mrs L. S. Cope, state librarian of Iowa, has issued a circular stating that the law relating to traveling libraries, passed by the last legislature, goes into effect July 1, but it is probable that the state librarian will not be able to fix a date when these books may be issued before January 1 next. The law seemingly contemplates two classes, distinctively, of "associated libraries." First, those already existing, and incorporated, or otherwise duly organized, as in schools, colleges, etc. Second, where no such library exists, twenty-five resident taxpayers may organize and by petition become an "associate library," and entitled to receive the books. Thus remote communities, clubs, reading circles, etc., may avail themselves of the benefit of the law. No charges will be made for the use of books other

than the cost of transportation. Blank forms of application will be issued, containing rules and regulations for the use, care, and keeping of the "traveling libraries."

#### West

The York (Neb.) library was opened June 18, in its new quarters. The rooms are nicely fitted up, are very pleasant, and well suited for the purpose.

Dillon (Mont.) has enjoyed the benefits of a free library for some time through the generous aid of Rev. S. D. Hooker and his wife. In April the people voted a tax for its support and the town will hereafter assume it.

Mrs E. W. Peattie, of Omaha (Neb.), in addition to her manifold duties as editor, author, club president, and other literary positions, is hard at work trying to establish a system of traveling libraries for Nebraska, to aid the club women of the rural districts in their efforts for higher culture.

#### Pacific Coast

The citizens of Yakima (Wash.) are moving toward establishing a public library. Library interests are growing in this state.

Herbert Bashford, formerly in charge of the old Mercantile library of Tacoma (Wash.), has been elected librarian of the public library, the successor of the first institution. W. Curtis Taylor, whom he succeeds, will take up his residence in Philadelphia.

The experiment of free access to the shelves is being tried in the branch libraries of the San Francisco free public library, with a view to making it a permanent privilege.

Frank H. Vaslit, assistant librarian of Academy of sciences, San Francisco, died in that city June 12. In the death of Mr Vaslit the academy loses one of its most efficient members.

Coronado Beach (Cal.) has a very good little library open to visitors as well as its own people.



Questions and Answers

Q. 12. What is the aim in the Dewey classification?

A. To bring together things which are like and to separate things which are unlike.

Q. 13. What is meant by "the two-book system"?

A. Allowing two books to be taken out by a borrower, provided only one book so taken is a work of fiction. With a small collection of books such an arrangement is impracticable.

Q. 14. What arrangement is advisable for catalog entries of the same name for persons and places?

A. Names of persons precede similar names of places, and places precede titles of books.

Q. 15. When the title on the back of a book is different from the one given on the title page, which should be used in the entries of a shelf-list?

A. Use the best known title. If the shelf-list is to be used chiefly as an inventory of stock, use the title on the back. If it is to be the subject catalog use the title on the title page, abbreviated, but clear.

Q. 16. Should official titles be capitalized?

A. Use capitals when titles are prefixed to names of persons; otherwise do not capitalize. Ex.: Bishop Brooks, but bishop of Massachusetts.

Q. 17. Would the critical journals mentioned in your June list help in selecting English books?

A. Most English books wanted by a small library are reviewed in the American critical journals.

A librarian writes: Why could not the Massachusetts library club sell its lists of select fiction to other librarians than those connected with the club? I should be glad to pay the small sum they cost the members. There is no other group of people in the United States so favorably located and so well equipped to do the work of criticising current fiction as the Massachusetts library club. I shall be very sorry to see them drop the work.

Extracts from Exchanges

The *Detroit Journal* for May 30 contains a well-written column tracing the causes which have led to the establishment of children's reading rooms in public libraries. Among many good things is the following:

"Children who have begun to find that books can throw light on practical interests of their daily lives have learned a valuable lesson. These interests present an interesting variety. A boy comes to the library and asks for book after book on domestic animals; not finding what he wants he at last gains courage to say that he is looking for something about guinea pigs; he wants to know how to take care of some newly acquired pets. A child whose request for a book evinces a definite taste, as the boy who asks for a book about 'wars and Indians and cowboys and fighting,' is a subject for hopefulness, because there is something to start with.

"It is always interesting to watch the boy who must soon go to work and is trying to decide what he will 'be' or do. He generally calls for theoretical books first—the *Start in life*, *Business boys*, *How to choose a profession*. Then he becomes more practical, and boat-building, engineering, carpentry, journalism, and any other trade or profession he can think of, form the substance of the books he calls for. If one can keep in touch with such boys and girls the task of leading them on from good to better and from better to best is a comparatively easy one.

"The work done in the schools has been dwelt upon; and it is important, but the educating influence of the library must not stop with the favored children who attend school. It should extend to the hundreds of girls and boys who work for their daily bread. What a blessing a taste for reading would be for these; how it would broaden the lives of these youthful toilers, making them citizens of the world, and filling them with the self-respect and sense of power that comes

with the exercise of the mental faculties.

"Intellectual activity! That is the workingman's right; that is the gilded youth's duty.

"How to do this work in a busy public library has occupied the attention of all interested. Much by way of suggestion has been done, in printing lists of good books and of books on special subjects; but it has been found that nothing takes the place of personal interest and assistance."

The *Critic* of June 6 contains the following account of Pratt free library:

"The new building of the free library of Pratt institute, which was opened on May 26, is three stories high, in Renaissance style, of red brick with brown-stone trimmings. The stock-room is 49 x 53 feet in size, five stories high, and provided with all the modern arrangements. The second floor is almost entirely occupied by the reference library, and the top floor contains a room for the library school. The building is so arranged that it can be converted into a wing of a larger library, should one be erected, or used as one of a group of buildings. The total cost is \$190,000, and the yearly expenses will be \$35,000. Pres. Charles M. Pratt, of the board of trustees, presided at the opening ceremonies, and Melvil Dewey, the state librarian, spoke upon the educational advantages of the public library and its relations to the schools. Mrs Margaret Deland delivered an address, in the course of which she said: 'Novel reading and theatre going may produce human monstrosities that feel but never act. The public library is an antidote to mere emotion. It is, moreover, no respecter of persons, and rich and poor, learned and ignorant, meet on the same ground. Seneca is not scrupulous as to the fashions, and Shakespeare is indifferent to bad grammar. The public library is a great factor in social intercourse; so are our drawing-rooms and our street-cars, but the public library combines the opportunities of them. In conclu-

sion, are there any words which can adequately portray the value of the institution which we formally dedicate today and open to your service? Has science any method or calculus any formula by which to measure or estimate the good it may do to this and coming generations?'"

The April number of *The Library* has two very helpful articles for librarians. One deals with some pitfalls in cataloging. These in part are: entering under one name the works of two authors bearing the same name; entering one author's books under two or more names which he may have worn at different times; entering under the possessive form of author's name; deciding the subject entry from some word on the title page; confusing form entry with subject entry; entering all books under the title; careless inversion of titles; the use of the dash; printing catalog before the whole of it is completed and revised. The other deals with the helps and hindrances of a public librarian. The helps mentioned are: sympathetic committee; a loyal and contented staff; staff meeting; knowledge of appreciation by the public; a suitable building; the press; the L. A. U. K. and all the library meetings, and lastly the Library Bureau. The hindrances mentioned are: library inventors; jealousy in the profession; the librarian siding in political, religious or social movements; self-conceit on the part of the librarian; the chatty visitor; multitudinous rules and regulations; unprogressive committee; lack of funds; an ill-adapted building; low wages; poor staff.

The *Overland Monthly* for June contains an article by Millicent W. Shinn, concerning school libraries. There are many good suggestions in it concerning the books to be used in different localities and under different circumstances. It closes with lists of books for a district school library, covering history, biography, stories, geography, travel, poetry, science, and nature.

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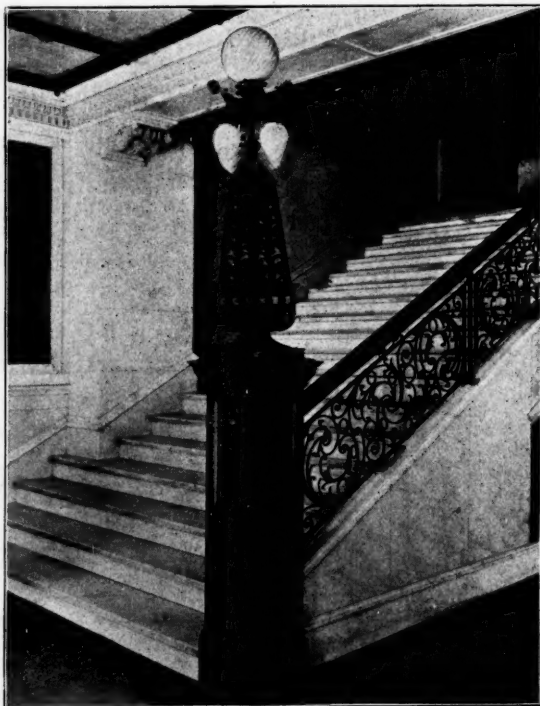


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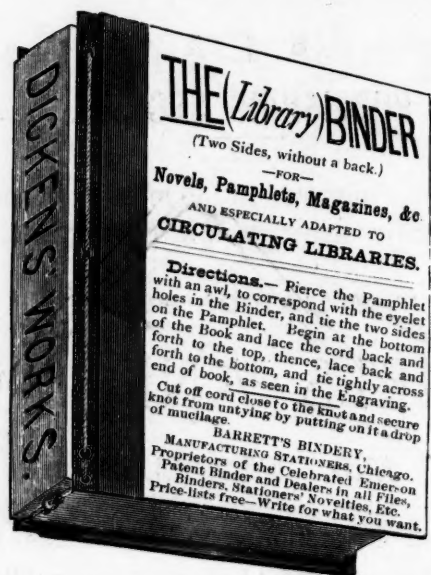
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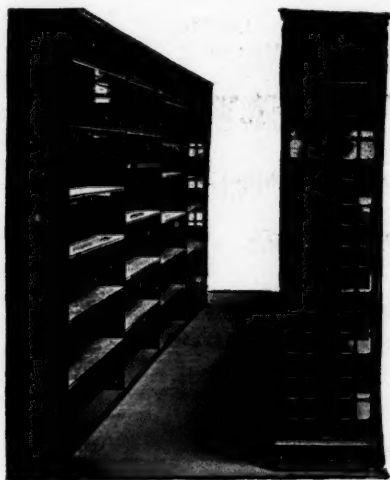
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